

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

December 17, 2019

**Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a complex made up of industrial research and development facilities and located on a 2,668-acre portion of the Simi Hills in Simi Valley (Ventura County, adjacent to LA County Districts 3 and 5). It was used primarily for the development and testing of rocket engines from 1949 to 2006; nuclear reactors and their cooling systems from 1953 to 1980; and a liquid metals research center from 1966 to 1998. Although the facilities have been inactive for several years, various serious incidents have left radioactive and chemical contaminants in the soil, in airborne dust particulates, and in stormwater runoff. These contaminants have affected the air, soil, and water in nearby Los Angeles County communities and have, therefore, affected constituents for decades. Serious health risks, such as potential clusters of rare cancers in children and adults, have been noted in neighboring communities. These and other impacts will continue unabated if a full clean-up of the site is not achieved in a timely manner.

Calls for clean-up have been ongoing since at least the 1990s. Current owners of various portions of the site are the Boeing Company, the National Aeronautics and Space

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Administration (NASA), and the Department of Energy (DOE). In 2010, an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was entered into by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), NASA, and DOE that required all detectible radioactive and chemical contamination to be reduced to “background levels”, i.e., similar to those existing before the site was contaminated. DTSC, as the regulating agency, is the AOC’s enforcement authority. The AOC is legally binding and stipulates that no “leave in place alternatives” will be considered.

In March of 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors formally called for a full cleanup alternative at the adjacent Department of Energy site at SSFL through the Environmental Impact Statement process that was being undertaken at that time.

At present, NASA has undertaken a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) in relation to the cleanup of soil at its portion of the SSFL. The Draft SEIS was released for comment in October 2019 and comments are due on January 8, 2020. The supplement to the original environmental impact statement now brings in additional alternative cleanup proposals (Alternatives B, C, and D) that propose to leave a majority of contamination in place, in clear violation of the binding 2010 AOC. Only the original Alternative A provides for the full cleanup as required by the 2010 AOC.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a five-signature letter to be submitted during the public comment period that calls on NASA to advance the cleanup as proposed in Alternative A of the SEIS. Alternative A is the only option that supports the legally binding agreement contained in the 2010 AOC and provides for a full cleanup at this site.